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TO: Center for Drug Evaluation and Research
Food and Drug Administration
Attention: **Kimberly Topper**
THIS FAX IS INTENDED FOR ABOVE RECIPIENT ONLY!
FAX: 301-827-6801
DATE: September 14, 2001
TIME: 10am
PAGES INCLUDING COVER: 3

FROM: David J. Blyweiss, M.D.

RE: Anesthetic and Life Support Drugs Advisory Committee Meeting

MESSAGE: One of our patients, John Grebas, wrote this letter, we wanted to send it in its entirety, unedited. Please forward this letter to the committee meeting for review.

Thank you

David J. Blyweiss, M.D.

Dr. B, Eric,

This is John Grebas, I was in for a appt. last Friday. I decided I should write this. I would appreciate if you would look over this to check my facts, and see if I may have went overboard, if so which areas I should remove, or add. Feel free to edit this yourself.. Please call me and let me know either way. When finished I will come in and sign your copy, I would like to leave a copy for the rep also, if one comes it. Thanks my number is 954-360-2955. If you have email I will gladly resend it to you. My email is kerravon@bellsouth.net

To whom it man concern,

My name is John Grebas, about 4 years ago I was stricken with Psoriatic arthritis, it is a rare form of arthritis that some psoriasis sufferer's get. Mine is severe, it is disfiguring my hands, feet and knees. It is in my spine, neck elbows, ankles, wrists, etc... Finally I had to go on disability, February, 6 2001, was the last day I worked. To testify for the severity of my arthritis, I was approved by Social Security on the first try. I have been told by many that it is very very rare that happens. I currently see several doctors, my rheumatologist wrote in my report that he is amazed, and quite frankly very impressed that I had been able to work as long as I did in my condition. Oxycontin was the drug that allowed me to work about 2 years past where his miracle drugs would have allowed.

At present there are 2 things keeping me from seriously thinking about suicide. One is my Mother's love. I would hate to do that to her I just don't think I could do it to her. I am her first and only son, the last left to carry on the name. The other and thank God almighty for it Oxycontin. I have had and am still trying new drugs. Methotrexate, Celebrex, Daypro, Feledne, Prediazone, Remicade and the list goes on. Many of these drugs have been described to me as miracle drugs that would change my life, they do very very little. I have used the internet to research these drugs, To the best of my knowledge and experience, all of these other so called miracle drugs are very harmful to the rest of the body, they destroy the liver and kidney, and or make the body more susceptible to infection. I have to have my blood tested monthly to make sure my liver is holding up. The Methortrexe has been described to me by several doctors as a poison, it made me very sick every time I took it (for days). Well for all I have been through and up till now the Oxycontin is the only miracle drug, the only that has changed my life for the better, it allows me to dress myself, shop for food, and clean my house, most of all it keeps me out of a nursing home. (I will never let that happen) My life is hard even with Oxycontin, I rarely leave the house it is just not fun it hurts too bad to enjoy even simple things like going out to eat.

Media people and others, before you condemn this drug, research it I recently did, after seeing all the news about Oxycontin I was concerned myself. From what I've read Oxycontin or even the more powerful opiates such as heroin (yes heroin is similar, another interesting fact I have discovered is the number one killer of heroin addicts is AIDS from sharing needles, wow I would have thought it was overdose or the itself killing them) do not harm any tissues in the body, and are very similar to our bodies own

opiates called endorphins. Opiates come from a plant. I have read that opiates so closely resemble the bodies endorphins that it would be like getting sap from a tree that could be used as blood, it is the only place in nature that we know of that this occurs. Many believe it had to be put here by God. It is a very old drug, fossilized poppy seeds and other archeological evidence shows opium poppy was used by Neanderthal man as long as 30,000 years ago, it has also been found, ancient Egyptians, and Greeks, among others.. Opiates were also the first drug legalized in the United states for medical purposes. So man has been using opiates for some time, the side effects are well known and documented, and Doctors have plenty of experience with them. Please research more before writing an article or broadcasting a story on opiates or any other subject for that matter.

There has been a lot of media on this drug, very little of it good. It is very simple why legal and illegal drug users use this drug. IT WORKS,. It helps kill pain and anything that really stops or kills pain is going to be addictive in one way or another. I have never heard of anything so stupid as a non-addictive pain killer it just doesn't make sense. Remember in the news a couple of years the so called non-addictive pain killer. (I don't remember the name) Well it wasn't killing pain it was killing patients. After a month of use it shut down the liver of a lot of patients. I guess someone thought they were better off dead than addicted. Bottom line is this drug Oxycontin works, and it works well. Punish the criminals not the sick. Drug addicts mix up chemicals they find under their sink and take it to get high, of course anyone that will do that will take a prescription drug, some inhale paint and gasoline, are we going to ban these chemicals as well as the ones under the sink. Really I would rather find out that a loved one or a kid is takeing a prescription drug than to find out they are addicted to gasoline or a household chemical they mix up themselves! No one forces these people to take, buy, or steal the drugs but themselves, and the need to be "cool", which has largely been created by the media.

Oxycontin is addictive, really I hate it, but it works. I hate all the drugs I have to take, and I hate going to the Doctor. Banning this drug will do two things, first it will take it out of the hands of doctors, second it will put it exclusively in the hands of the illegal drug dealers (if you don't think so then tell me why cocaine, marihuana, etc... are so easily available, unfortunately it is easier for someone under 21 to get illegal drugs than it is for them to get alcohol another bad drug, At least it was when I was in high school. Probably for you too) I will keep trying new drugs and pray that one works or they find a cure. I would give anything to have my old life back. Until then PLEASE don't ban this drug I do not know what I would do without it.

P.S. Remicade is the second best drug I have taken. It is given through infusion every 8 weeks, and is very expensive (I think close to \$3000 each treatment). It helps me a little (about 20%) for about 8 to 10 days. At least it does something.

Sincerely,
John Grebas
(954) 360-2955